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cont. beneath said cover, wherein said reduced pressure supply means comprises a screen having an open cell foam and said reduced pressure supply means includes a segment of tubing embedded within said screen.

B³ 31. (Amended) The appliance as recited in claim [1] 2 wherein said seal includes an adhesive material on the cover [for securing] adapted to secure said cover to the tissue surrounding the wound.

610. (Amended) [The] An apparatus [as recited in claim 9] for treating a wound comprising:

B⁴ (a) a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure, wherein said vacuum system includes a collection device for collecting fluid aspirated from the wound, wherein said collection device includes means for halting said application of reduced pressure to the wound when said fluid exceeds a predetermined quantity; and

(b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system adapted to apply said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:

(i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

(ii) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(iii) reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply said reduced pressure within said cover to the wound.

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11. (Amended) The apparatus as recited in claim [8] 10 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure.

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13. (Amended) The method as recited in claim [12] 15 wherein said reduced pressure is from about 2 in. Hg below atmospheric pressure to about 7 in. Hg below atmospheric

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pressure.

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11/15. (Amended) [The] A method [as recited in claim 14] of treating a wound [further] comprising the [step] steps of:

(a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound, wherein said applying step comprises the steps of:

(i) placing a porous screen over the wound [prior to said locating step];

(ii) locating an impermeable cover over the wound, said cover having a suction port;

(iii) sealing the periphery of said impermeable cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(iv) operably connecting said suction port with a vacuum system for producing said reduced pressure; and

(b) maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward a selected stage of healing.

16/19. (Amended) [The] An appliance [of Claim 1] for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

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(a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, wherein said cover comprises a flexible sheet;

(b) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(c) reduced pressure supply means for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply said reduced pressure beneath said cover.

23/26. (Amended) [The] An appliance [of Claim 5 further] for administering a reduced pressure treatment to a wound comprising:

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(a) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound, wherein said cover is sufficiently rigid to support said cover out of contact with the wound;

(b) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound;

(c) reduced pressure supply means for connection to a source of suction, said reduced pressure supply means cooperating with said cover to supply said reduced pressure beneath said cover, wherein said reduced pressure supply means comprises a suction port on said cover; and

(d) a screen adapted to prevent overgrowth of the wound for placement at a location between the wound and said cover and [securable] secured in said location by the periphery of said cover.

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28. (Amended) The appliance of Claim ²³26 wherein said seal includes an adhesive material on the cover [for adhering] adapted to adhere to tissue surrounding the wound and a seal member at least partially overlying said cover.

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29. (Amended) [The] An apparatus [of claim 8] for treating a wound comprising:

(a) a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure, [wherein said reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing connected between said vacuum system and said cover and] wherein said vacuum system comprises:

[(a)] (i) a vacuum pump [connected with said tubing]; and

[(b)] (ii) a filter for preventing said pump from venting micro-organisms aspirated from the wound; and

(b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system adapted to apply said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:

_____ (i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

_____ (ii) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

_____ (iii) reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply said

B9 reduced pressure to the wound, wherein said reduced pressure supply means comprises a length of tubing connected between said vacuum system and said cover.

28 31. (Amended) [The] An apparatus [of claim 8] for treating a wound comprising:

B10 (a) a vacuum system adapted to produce a reduced pressure, wherein said vacuum system comprises control means for cyclically controlling said production of reduced pressure in alternating periods of production and non-production of reduced pressure; and

(b) a reduced pressure appliance operably connected with said vacuum system adapted to apply said reduced pressure to the wound, the appliance including:

(i) an impermeable cover adapted to cover and enclose the wound and adapted to maintain reduced pressure at the site of the wound;

(ii) a seal adapted to seal said cover to tissue surrounding the wound; and

(iii) reduced pressure supply means for connection with the vacuum system adapted to supply said reduced pressure to the wound.

29 35. (Amended) [The] A method [of Claim 12] of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

(a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound; and

B11 (b) maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward a selected stage of healing, wherein said maintaining [step] of said reduced pressure is conducted in alternating periods of application and non-application of the [negative] reduced pressure.

31 37. (Amended) [The] A method [of claim 12] of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

B12 (a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound; and

(b) maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward a selected stage of healing, wherein said selected stage of healing is cessation of partial

thickness burn progression.

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38. (Amended) [The] A method [of claim 12] of treating a wound comprising the steps of:

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(a) applying a reduced pressure to the wound; and
(b) maintaining said reduced pressure until the wound has progressed toward a selected stage of healing,
wherein said selected stage of healing is a reduction in bacterial density in the wound by at least 50%.

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42. (Amended) A device for promoting closure of a wound comprising:

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(a) an impermeable deformable cover [for placement] adapted to be placed over the wound;

(b) an adhesive layer on the cover [for forming] adapted to form a seal between said cover and tissue surrounding the wound;

(c) support means for supporting said cover outward from the wound forming an enclosed volume bounded by said cover and the wound and tissue surrounding the wound; and

(d) supply means for supplying reduced pressure to said enclosed volume and for deforming said cover so as to exert tension upon the tissue surrounding the wound.

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43. (Amended) The device of Claim ³³42 wherein said support means comprises a support member [locatable] located within said enclosed volume.

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45. (Amended) The device of Claim ³³42 wherein said support means comprises a support member [locatable] located external to said enclosed volume.